REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 and 19-24 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 19-21 and 23 have been amended and Claims 10-18 have been canceled by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 2, 6, 9, 11 and 18 were objected to; Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Suzuki et al.; and Claims 16 and 17 were objected to as being duplicate claims of Claims 13 and 14.

Regarding the objection to the claims, the appropriate claims have been amended as suggested in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Suzuki et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to scanning optics including first, second and third optics and a deflector. The second optics includes at least one focusing element formed of resin and at least one focusing element formed of glass. Further, at least one surface of the second optics includes a non-arcuate auxiliary surface non-arcuate in a section in a subscanning direction, and among the focusing elements of the second optics, a focusing element on which the light beam output from the first optics is transmitted with a maximum diameter in the subscanning direction and which includes the at least one non-arcuate auxiliary surface. Independent Claims 10, 19-21 and 23 includes similar features.

In a non-limiting example, Figure 1C illustrates second optics 3 including the at least one focusing element formed of resin (lenses 10 or 11) and at least one focusing element 12 formed of glass. Among the focusing elements of the second optics 3, a focusing element on

which the light beam output from the first optics 2 (see Figure 1) is transmitted with a maximum diameter in the subscanning direction includes the at least one non-arcuate auxiliary surface. Example 1 beginning in the specification at page 21, line 6 illustrates an example in which the non-arcuate auxiliary surface is applied to the input surface 12a of the glass lens 12 included in the second optics 3. In this example, the wavefront aberration is desirably corrected as shown in Figure 6B (see page 24, lines 22-25).

Thus, according to the claimed invention, the optical element on which the beam radius (width) in the subscanning direction is maximum is provided with the non-arcuate auxiliary surface.

The outstanding Office Action cites column 19, lines 49-67 of Suzuki et al. as teaching a focusing element of the second optics being formed of resin through which the light beam output from the first optics is transmitted with a maximum diameter in the subscanning direction and which includes the non-arcuate auxiliary surface. However, this section states that "it is possible to further enlarge the radius of curvature of each surface." This passage means that the radius of curvature is made as large as possible. However, Suzuki et al. does not disclose which surface should be implemented as the non-arcuate auxiliary surface for effectively correcting wave front aberration and thus differs from the claimed invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent Claims 10, 19-21 and 23 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

Further, regarding the objection to the duplication of Claims 16 and 17, Claims 16 and 17 have been cancelled.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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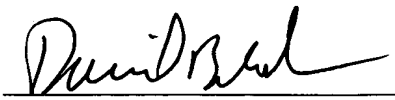

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